

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: They are provided with the same standard type of quarters which are provided to other Class IV employees of the Central Government. There is no distinction.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that the Prime Minister recently expressed himself very indignantly against these one room tenements and may I know why even after that they are being constructed?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Well, Sir, we have to choose between two evils—either to allow a very large number of our employees to go without even single room tenements or provide them with some shelter.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: How many sets of uniforms are provided to them per year?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Two sets of summer uniforms and one winter uniform every second year, that is, every alternate year. Sir, I speak this from memory only.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is it not a fact that because they are given only one uniform, they are to be seen discharging Government business in plain clothes?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Certain prescribed items of uniforms they do get. Our employees are quite alert and vigilant about their rights and if there is any complaint from them, we will definitely look into it.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: As regards duty hours, is it not a fact that in the absence of fixation of duty hours, chowkidars have to perform a duty of 84 hours a week and more than 12 hours a day without any break and in Madras the roster is for 72 hours?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The hours of duty of chowkidars depend upon the nature of the work they have got to do. For example, if there is a chowki-

dar attached to an ordnance factory, he is asked to work for eight hours. But if one is only required to be present on the premises and no heavy work is expected of him, it may even be 12 hours. Anyway, the whole question is under examination.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GROUP ON TRANSPORT

***421. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH:** Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inter-departmental group has submitted its report on the problem of various aspects of transport; and

(b) if so, what further measures, in the light of its suggestions, are proposed to be taken for the improvement of transport facilities, especially in regard to the inland water transport?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) The Group has not yet submitted its Report.

(b) Does not arise.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know by what time the Report is expected to be received?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think the Report is nearing completion now.

STRIKE AT THE KANDLA PORT

***422. SHRI B. GUPTA AND SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR:** Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that about 1,500 workers employed under the German firm of Messrs. MacKenzie Heinrich Butzer (India) Ltd., at Kandla Port were on strike from the 27th September to 4th October, 1954;

(b) if so, what were the demands of those workers;

(c) whether it is a fact that workers were lathi-charged and arrested; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any action in this matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) About 300 employees of Messrs. McKenzies Heinrich Butzer (India) Ltd., were on strike from the 27th September 1954 to 3rd October 1954.

(b) The immediate demand which led to the strike related to the reinstatement of an employee who had been discharged by the firm under the terms and conditions of his employment.

(c) The strikers obstructed the movement of trains by lying prostrate on the railway track. They were bodily removed by the police who later had to resort to a mild lathi-charge to disburse the crowd which was becoming violent. A few persons were also arrested.

(d) No.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that the main demand of the workers, particularly of the loco-staff, was that they should be given their pay at a fixed time? There are other demands also—fixation of pay, fixation of time for payment of overtime and all these things. Is it not a fact that while negotiations were going on on these demands, one of the representatives of the employees was dismissed and as a result the workers had to go on strike?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Formerly, before the strike occurred, there were some demands by the crew of the trains and the matter was settled with them. After the settlement took place, evidently some of their leaders were not satisfied and they were trying to foment a strike. When they took out a train some of the workers laid themselves on the line, as stated already. As far as the disbursement of

wages etc. is concerned, the Kandla Development Organisation has got a Labour Welfare Supervisor who looks to it that these are done as per the clause in the agreement.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that labour laws are not implemented in Kutch and taking advantage of this, this particular firm is putting the employees to a number of hardships including the delaying of their pay for even two months, depriving them of other facilities and also behaving in an objectionable manner? As a result of it, a dispute was going on and only after the strike notice was served the employers asked for representatives of the labourers for negotiations and when negotiations were going on, at that time a strike was again provoked by the dismissal of the employee. Is this not the position?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I have nothing more to add to what I have stated.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Is it not a fact that the labourers are paid generally very late because the company has very small capital and they are not able to pay their workers in time?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As far as that is concerned, the Government have accommodated them on several occasions and the Labour Welfare Supervisor attached to the Organisation sees to it that these disbursements are made in time.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Is it not a fact that this Company has only a capital of Rs. 25 lakhs out of which 17 lakhs are deposited with Government and a working capital of Rs. 8 lakhs for a contract of Rs. 3½ crores?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As I said, I cannot vouch for the figures.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Is it not a fact that the work at Kandla Port is very much behind time and for some months the work was suspended?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is another question altogether.

SHRI B. GUPTA: The hon. Minister told us that there was a mild lathi charge. May I know as per the standards of non-violence when the lathi charge is called a mild lathi charge?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are not applying anything like that to you here.

SHRI B. GUPTA: I want to know what is a mild lathi charge.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: He can ask the Home Minister.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that when the strike was on one of the representatives of the firm asked the Police 'why don't you shoot the strikers'?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I do not know about that particular matter. But as the question regarding the labour trouble there has been raised, may I for the information of the House say that we have taken a very serious view of the whole thing and the Directors have been informed like this: "The Government of India have taken a serious view of the fact that the undertakings given to the labourers and to the staff employed by you have not yet been implemented and I am directed....."—the Development Commissioner is writing to them on our behalf—".....to inform you that this is not in the best interests of labour and that the relations between labour and your management must be maintained in a most amicable manner. It is therefore necessary that the various undertakings given by your management to the labour and the staff employed by them when the last strike was called off are forthwith implemented if they have not already been done. I would like to hear a Report week by week as to how far you have been able to abide by the undertakings which have been listed serially in the printed statement issued by the Labour Union and

forwarded to the Government of India."

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it a fact that it was on the insistence of the Development Commissioner that the Police was brought to the scene while the workers were completely peacefully striking and picketing?

(No reply.)

*423. [The questioner (Shri J. K. Vallabharao) was absent. For answer vide col. 3031 infra.]

LICENCES FOR SUGAR FACTORIES

*424. SHRI PRASADARAO: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the circumstances which are taken into consideration for granting licences for establishing sugar factories?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): Licences for the establishment of new sugar factories are granted after taking into consideration the following main factors:—

(a) Additional installed capacity proposed to be licensed for the sugar industry as a whole, depending upon the target fixed for increased production of sugar.

(b) Availability of sugarcane in adequate quantities at the site where a factory is proposed to be put up.

(c) Availability of irrigation, transport and other facilities required for the working of a sugar factory.

(d) Suitability of soil and climatic conditions.

(e) That location of a new factory will not interfere with the working of the existing factories in the area.

(f) Financial standing of the promoters.

SHRI PRASADARAO: How many applications were received for erection of new plants?